

Energy Conservation Benefits Business & Shoppers

Outline Of Need: Mike and Teresa Jurgensen, owners of Mr. J's Affiliated Foods in Burwell, Neb. were in search of funds to assist in replacing their grocery store's energy inefficient, old freezers and compressors. The 4,000 sq. ft. store provides essential products to the 1,130 residents of Burwell and surrounding rural communities.

Local grocery services are few and far between in this area of the state. Grocery stores are located in Ord, 15 miles to the south and in Atkinson 55 miles north. Ericson, 23 miles to the east and Taylor, 13 miles west lack grocery services.

How Rural Development Helped: Rural Development assisted with an energy efficiency improvements grant of \$3,200 that was combined with recipient funds of \$13,600. The monies installed new freezer with doors and a high efficiency air cooled compressor.

The Results: Mr. J's has been operational for 4 years and each year the owners planned to upgrade the store's equipment. The energy efficiency improvements grant was their first attempt at making the major upgrades. The goal was to decrease their energy consumption as well as save money long-term to enhance the grocery store's financial bottom line and pass the savings back to their customers through grocery prices. With the help of the USDA grant, the Jurgensens accomplished the upgrades that are proposed to yield over 62 percent in energy savings and return the cost of investment in approximately 8 years.

(February 2006)



Mike & Teresa Jurgensen, Owners
Mr. J's Affiliated Foods



Energy efficiency improvements grant assisted with
purchase of new freezers with doors.